



Part A

Chapter 4

Census Blocks

- **Census Blocks**
- **Comparison of Census 2000 Collection Block
Numbers to Census 2000 Tabulation Block Numbers**



Chapter 4

Summary

- **Census Blocks**

A census block is the smallest geographic area for which the Census Bureau collects and tabulates decennial census data.

- **Comparison of Census 2000 Collection Block Numbers and Census 2000 Tabulation Block Numbers**

After data collection activities are completed, the Census Bureau will update the TIGER data base with new streets and other map features, and then will assign Census 2000 Tabulation Block Numbers. Census 2000 Tabulation Blocks and the Census 2000 collection blocks are numbered differently and do not share a numeric relationship, except where coincidental.

Census Blocks

A census block is a small area bounded by a series of streets, roads, railroads, streams, and other bodies of water, other visible physical and cultural features, and some legal boundaries. The concept is basically the same as that of a "city block." Census blocks are the smallest geographic area for which the Census Bureau collects and tabulates decennial census data. Census data for census blocks serve as a valuable source for small-area geographic studies.

Census 2000 Collection Block Numbers

The block numbers that appear on the Census Bureau maps you will use for Address List Review are called "collection block numbers." They are four or five-digit numbers that are assigned within county or statistically equivalent entity.

Comparison of Census 2000 Collection Block Numbers and Census 2000 Tabulation Block Numbers

For Census 2000, the Census Bureau established the Census 2000 collection block numbers to conduct the Address List Review and subsequent data collection activities.

After data collection operations are completed, the Census Bureau will update the TIGER data base with new streets and other features found during the enumeration and then create a new block numbering system, known as Census 2000 tabulation block numbers. There will be no numeric relationship between collection block numbers and the tabulation block numbers, except where coincidental. These blocks will nest within the 2000 block groups which will nest within 2000 census tracts, which most data users find helpful as they work with the Census 2000 data. As the tabulation block numbers almost always will be different than the block numbers used during Address List Review, it is imperative that local and tribal officials are aware of these differences. The Census Bureau will create comparability information on the basis of one-to-one, one-to-many, many-to-one, and many to many block number relationships. The Census Bureau will not, however, distinguish parts of blocks in its comparability files. Therefore, the Census Bureau will produce comparability files that will link the Address List Review block numbers to the 2000 tabulation block numbers, the 1990 block numbers to the 2000 collection block numbers, and the 1990 block numbers to the 2000 tabulation block numbers.